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freshmen some study of the proper use of a library. The offering of an elective in library instruction is not adequate to meet the problem. Those most in need of such a course fail to elect it. It would seem that the ideal way would be to make compulsory some such work for all freshmen, and then to provide further instruction for those who wish it. The library staff, however, cannot give such instruction, if it is heavily taxed in time and energy. It is surely worth while to sacrifice a good deal to make it possible for every student to gain at least an elementary knowledge of how to use a library.

There is, however, another aspect to library usage. The library is, above all, a tool to be employed properly. It may be more;—it may be one door to an understanding and appreciation of life and its spiritual verities. Right here the purely technical student is most lacking. I cannot express the matter as clearly as did our chairman in her letter to me, and so I quote her words: "Technical education may give one as much discipline in securing mental alertness and perhaps grasp, yet no technical subject gives one the knowledge of man—his methods of thought and action, his decisions and the result of his decisions—which fits a man or woman to cope with the world of men." I have noticed this lack of understanding of human nature in one of my dearest friends,

herself a woman of education and attainments, but technically trained only. Inasmuch as she is high-minded, she takes for granted the same attitude in others, and is bewildered and unhappy when she often runs onto other traits. More study of history and sociology, a wider reading of fiction and a drama would have better prepared her to meet the world, and with truer knowledge of life and its hard conditions, she would have had more sympathy and tolerance for storm-tossed humanity.

The question of the power of personal contact is one that cannot be estimated. A little patience, a word here and there, and a great deal of tact in calling attention to books and magazine articles that are worth while will in time have an effect. Tact is particularly needed in dealing with members of the faculty. It is necessary to be careful to give due respect to men who have specialized in subjects we know little of, and above all the service asked for should be rendered before offering one not requested. However, if the librarian is really competent and possesses valuable information the faculty will gradually appreciate this and will come in time to ask help and advice. In this way he will be able to take his proper place as a guide to literature in the college community.

AN INDEX TO AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS

BY VINA ELETHE CLARK, *Librarian, Iowa State College of Agriculture*

It is scarcely necessary at this time to present arguments in favor of an index to agricultural periodical literature. That has been well done by Mr. Hepburn of the Purdue University library in two papers before this section, and, moreover, we are all agreed that we need it. Therefore, the object of this report is not to give detailed information regarding such an index,

but to provoke a discussion of ways and means to get it.

You all received copies of the circular letter sent out from our library some weeks ago, and practically all of you replied to it. All of the replies were favorable to the plan, some librarians naturally being more enthusiastic than others.

Mrs. Kidder received many replies, also

to her request for lists of fifty agricultural periodicals most desirable for indexing. These lists were studied carefully, and the number of votes each periodical received was recorded. Many periodicals received but one vote, others two or three, and others five and up. Finally a list of fifty receiving the greatest number of votes was made, and this list is appended to this report.

The situation in a nutshell is then that all of the agricultural libraries need and want an index to agricultural periodical literature and we have a list of the fifty magazines for which indexes are wanted by the greatest number. The question is then, how shall we get the index?

If Mr. Wilson could furnish us such an index at a price within the reach of our libraries, our troubles would surely be over. If this does not seem possible, is there anything left to us but co-operation of some sort?

List of Fifty Periodicals

Breeders' Gazette
Country Gentleman
Hoard's Dairyman
Reliable Poultry Journal
Wallace's Farmer
Kimball's Dairy Farmer
Fruit Grower & Farmer
Garden Magazine
Better Fruit
Journal of Heredity

Rural New Yorker
Journal Agricultural Science
Farm and Fireside
American Forestry
Farm Poultry
American Sheep Breeder
Country Life in America
Gardener's Chronicle
Jersey Bulletin
Green's Fruit Grower
Market Growers' Journal
Ohio Farmer
Journal American Society Agronomy
National Stockman & Farmer
Orange Judd Farmer
Progressive Farmer
Berkshire World
Chicago Dairy Produce
Gleanings in Bee Culture
New York Produce Review
American Poultry Journal
American Poultry Advocate
American Fertilizer
Florist's Exchange
Florist's Review
Horticulture
Journal of Agricultural Research
Creamery & Milk Plant Monthly
Farmers' Review
American Co-operative Journal
American Breeder
Canadian Horticulturist
Practical Farmer
Countryside Magazine
Thresherman's Review
Forestry Quarterly
Homestead
Poultry
American Lumberman
Field
Shepherd's Journal

THE CIVICS ROOM

BY JOHN B. KAISER, *Librarian, Tacoma Public Library*

One of the most recent experiments in specialization within the public library has brought into being so-called Civics Rooms. They exist in name, so far as I have been able to ascertain, in but four libraries, namely, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit and Louisville.

There is usually an intangible though compelling force—perhaps we may even say a tide in the affairs of men—which brings about as the result of a definite need

the creation of new agencies for satisfying or fulfilling the need.

A comparatively recent development in library work is the legislative reference library. It came into being when men more fully realized the seriousness of the problem of intelligent legislation in general, and it offered itself as a factor in the solution of this particular problem. Similarly, some years later the seriousness of the problem of municipal government be-